THE MORNING SUN.

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., SUNDAY, MAY 5, 1907.

HOUSE ENDS SECRET SESSIONS

RESOLUTION, INSTRUCTING HOUSE MEMBERS OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE TO OPEN MEET-INGS TO PUBLIC ADOPTED BY HOUSE-Mac-WILLIAMS OPPOSED RESOLUTION, BUT ONLY FIFTEEN VOTED WITH HIM AGAINST IT.

Representative Farris, with the kind assistance of 36 other members, proved himself to be a good Legislative locksmith yesterday.

He made the key that will unlock the door of the executive sessions of the Investigating Committee.

His resolution will let the light shine on the proceedings of the committee.

Mr. MacWilliams got on the job at once with his hammer, but the product turned out by Mr. Farris was so good that the blows of the gentleman from St. Johns didn't make a dent in it.

Mr. MacWilliams raised a point of order, but was not sustained.

Mr. MacWilliams deplored the adoption of such a resolution,

but nobody seemed to be affected except Mr. Watson, who ventured the assertion that it was a joint committee.

Mr. Farris of Duval.

Mr. Mac Williams denounced the resolution as reflect- with other baking powders of the line grade as it is reping on the integrity of the committee and the administra- resented to-be. Please send as bill for your charges tion, but only fifteen members agreed with him.

So the resolution was adopted-37 year to 16 nays. And the secret inquisition instigated by Chairman luckman is ended.

The resolution that will enable the public to learn about

ate and House of Representatives to investigate the Inter-average price of nineteen samples of alum powders anawith the manner, progress or result of its investigation is 12.9 cents per pound. up to the present time; and,

"Whereas, The best interests of the people demand that office of any kind." said investigation be made public; therefore, be it

"Resolved by the House of Representatives. That it is the following letter indicates: the sense of this House that all sessions of said Investigating Committee shall hereafter be open to the public, and "Hon. R. E. Rose, that any and all investigations of said Fund or the Trustees thereof by said Investigating Committee shall be conducted openly and publicly, in order that the people may

"Resolved, That each and all of the members of said In- stuff outside of a licensed saloon. vestigating Committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives be, and they are hereby instructed to drunkenness, and we wish to stop it. carry out the wishes of this House before said Investigating Committee without delay. Be it further

Resolved. That a copy of this resolution be transmitted

to said Investigating Committee."

the point of order that the House had already put itself was 7.95 per cent. on record, when it had defeated a concurrent resolution of like character.

"Nothing to it," the Speaker said.

Mr. MacWilliams looked distressed.

"Just so long as this matter is called to the attention of the House," said Mr. Farris, "just so long will I call attention to the necessity of holding open sessions."

"I can see no reason for secret meetings of the Investigating Committee," continued Mr. Farris.

"It is not in keeping with Democracy, and is not in

the best interests of the people of this State. "The purpose of the investigation is for the interest of

the people, and the public should be informed daily of the committee's work. "The only reason offered by the committee for holding

executive sessions seemed to be fear of interfrence by the public. If the committee is afraid of the public, then it is time for the public to be afraid of the committee."

Mr. Watson remarked that it was a joint committee, and therefore the House had no control over the action terday, the last bill introduced being No. 401. of the Senate members.

the House members and not the committee as a whole, and that the House could exact obedience from its own mem-

cause I don't believe there is anything to find out.

rity of the committee, and that of the Governor and do, Wilson of Lee 37. Cabinet officers as well."

llams did not explain.

Mr. Farris denied that reflection was intended or im- Russell, Watson-16. plied, but that it was proper for the public to be informed. One member of the committee-Mr. Reese-VOTED like character, intended to reach the reason of legislaand to make demand for the information of the committee FOR THE RESOLUTION.

PURE FOOD LAW NEED OF STATE

OF IMPURE FOOD CONDITIONS-CIDER CON-TAINING MORE ALCOHOL THAN BEER-POIS-ONED BY ALUM.

Providing for pure food in Florida, is the purpose of a bill that was introduced in the Senate the third day of

It has not yet been reported from committee. Indeed, if consideration is the object, sufficient time has certainly been given, and friends of such a law are wondering if favorable action will be possible with this Legislature.

Nobody can deny the need for such a law in this State, especially since the action of many other States in securing pure food legislation has reduced the list where impure foods can be sold, and Florida is thus made one of order for next Thursday, and again Mr. Griggs kicked. the dumping grounds for poisonous trash.

Proof of this condition is given by the State Chemist, and the following letters to him and his reply indicate clearly that pure food legislation is needed.

Here is one letter:

"Sopchoppy Fla., April 26, 1907.

"Hon. R. E. Rose,

"State Chemist, "Tallahassee, Florida.

"Dear Sir-We are sending you by mail under separate cover a can of Cascade baking powder, put up by the American Pure Food Company of St. Louis. We bought a large quantity of this article, it being represented to us as a high-grade article, to retall at 50 cents per pound, and guaranteed to comply with the requirements of the recently enacted pure food laws. Our customers complain that it is no better than the cheep baking powders, and we believe that we have been awadled.

"We respectfully request that you analyze a sample of this powder and let us know. It it compares favorably and we will remit. We would inclosed the amount, or an analysis. but have no idea what you char "Yours very

"State Chemist,

estfully, "LANGSTON & STRICKLAND." The State Chemist replied as Moova:

"This is an alum powder. "Average market price per money five alum powders to come commenter appointed by the Sen- analyzed by Connecticut expert in 1904 is 11/1-5 cents; will get, The or or one is UNJUST AND UNFAIR."

"There are no fees nor charges in the State Chemist's

Alcoholic drinks, under misrepresentation, are sold, as

"River Junction, Fla., Ajril 27, 1907.

"Tallahassee, Florida. "Dear Sir-We are sending you two quarts of cider (?) have opportunity to become familiar with the manner and, which we wish to know the amount of alcohol contained result of said investigation as it progresses. Be it further in each. Also wish to know if it is unlawful to sell this "Do you claim that as an intelligent vote?"

"Both are being sold at this place and create a lot of

"Hoping to hear from you at an early date, I am "Yours truly,

S. J. FLETCHER."

Beer contains but from 3 to 5 per cent. of alcohol.

MANY ANTI-BOOZE PETITIONS.

About a half-hour of the session of the House yesterday was devoted to reading of petitions advocating the anti-liquor bills now before that body.

Mr. Knight of Citrus became frightened at the thought of how large the Journal might be if all the names attached

to the petitions were printed. He said: "I do not want to pose as a watch dog of the the House last Monday ever becomes a law. treasury, but I object to making up the Journal of names

The names were cut off, and everybody was pleased. passed, asking for a survey of the St. Lucie River, from why they so voted: its entrance to six miles up stream to the railroad, and

asking an appropriation for deepening the same.

On roll call the vote was:

Then Mr. MacWilliams came into the play. He said: Jones, Kilgore, Kirkland, Knight of Columbia, Lassitter, passage or defeat of such bill, resolution, report or claim, "I don't think the committee will find out anything, be- Long, McCutcheon, McKenzie, Mathews of Marion, Morri- for the purpose of procuring the passage or defeat thereson, Parkinson, Paul, Peaden, Peeples, Pettigrew, Reese, of; shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding one "I am opposed to this resolution, because it easts doubt Register, Richhourg, Smith, Snell, Taylor, Wells, Willis year, or by fine not exceeding five hundred dollars. on the honesty of the committee. It reflects on the integ- of Levy, Williams, Wilson of Calhoun, Wilson of Hernan- "Nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent

FAILED TO GET VOTE ON 3 CENT BILL

SAMPLES SUBMITTED TO STATE CHEMIST PROOF MR. GRIGGS MADE TOUCHING APPEAL FOR BILL, BUT HOUSE ADJOURNED WHILE HE IN-SISTED ON "SAVING THE PEOPLE'S MONEY" -REESE HAD "CHANGED HIS MIND."

> When the last bill on third reading, that of Mr. Richbourg, making three cents a mile the maximum rate of passenger fare, was reached in the House yesterday, its author asked that it be informally passed.

> Mr. Griggs of Franklin was quickly on his feet with objection.

> "Why, this is the bill I've been waiting to vote for," he said, "and I object to its being laid over."

> Mr. Richbourg moved that the bill be made a special

"I hope this House won't go on record to retard this bill. I believe that many members think it a better bill than the other.

"It is being delayed for a purpose," he impatiently

The other bill was that by Mr. Long, making the rate two and one-half cents. Forty-three members voted for that bill last Tuesday, twelve against.

In explanation of his vote that day Mr. Griggs said: "Believing that the enforcement of a two and one-half cent passenger rate over short lines would prove disastrous to their investments, and knowing there is another bill coming before the House for consideration providing for, I therefore upon this proposition vote 'No.'" for, I therefore upon this proposition voote 'No.' "

Mr. Richbourg, replying to the objections of Mr. Griggs, said he wanted one bill on this subject, but-did not wish to have his bill conflict with that of Mr. Long, but he withdrew his motion for special order.

"If the House passes this bill it will be put in a most peculiar attitude-that of a public body not knowing what it wanted," exclaimed Mr. Long.

Mr. Wilson of Hernando smilingly remarked that the position of Mr. Griggs in this matter was most peculiar. The House had passed one fare bill, and the Representative from Franklin was trying to get another passed.

Mr. Millinor of Madison then came to the defense of the down-trodden railroads, with the statement that: "If we

At this point in the argument Mr. Faulkner of Taylor nal Improvement Fund has failed to acquaint the public lyzed by Department of Agriculture of Virginia in 1906 offered a little oil for the troubled waters with an amendment exempting lines 100 miles or less in length.

> Nobody seemed to remember that a bill on third reading could not be amended without unanimous consent, but a motion was made to table the amendment, and it was so placed.

> Mr. Willis of Levy said that the House was not ready to pass this bill, and this statement aroused Mr. Reese, who said: "I am in a position to vote intelligently on this bill now. I can't see that anything is to be gained

> "You would vote for that bill?" asked Mr. Willis.

Mr. Reese -I DO.

Mr. Willis-I DON'T.

Mr. Reese-My vote would be an intelligent vote, because I've changed my mind. Any intelligent man can change his mind.

"No use in spending so much of the State's money in Analysis of this cider by the State Chemist showed that discussing something we all want," cried Mr. Griggs, as After the resolution was read, Mr. MacWilliams raised one contained 15.4 per cent. of alcohol, while in the other he returned to the attack, but here he was cut off by the motion to adjourn of Mr. Williams of Jackson. The motion prevailed, and the bill was left in the same

position as when Mr. Griggs demanded that it be put to

WHERE THE LOBBYIST GETS HIS.

The petitions of this character came in so fast that If Calkins Bills Becomes Law, Vicious Lobbying Will Be Dangerous Practice, Lobbying of a vicious character will have a closed

season if the bill introduced by Mr. Calkins of Nassau in

Not much chance of its being effective during this sesof citizens of Florida. It is a useless expense, and I ob- sion of the Legislature, but it will be a vigilant guard around the Legislature of 1909, if it passes.

If it does not pass, those who vote against it will Mr. Watson offered a memorial to Congress, which was doubtless have difficulty explaining to their constituents

"Whoever, by any personal solicitations of a member of the Legislature of this State, during a session thereof, by The four hundred mark of House bills was passed yes- private interview, or letter or message, or other means and appliances not addressed solely to the judgment, to favor or oppose, to vote for or against any bill, resolution, re-Mr. Farris replied that the resolution only instructed was not disrespectful to it, but was a duty to the people. port or claim pending, or to be introduced in either branch thereof, who misrepresents the nature of his interest in Yeas-Messrs. Calkins, Crawford, Decker, DuPont, the matter to such member, or who is employed for a con-Durrance, Farris, Faulkner, Geiger, Harvell, Johnson, sideration by a person or corporation interested in the

any person or persons from drafting petitions, bills, or Nays-Mr. Speaker, Messrs. Bradshaw, Clarke, Done- resolutions attending to the taking of testimony, collect-But nobody figured it out this way, and Mr. MacWil- gan, Dorman, Grigge, Hartsfield. Hooker, Knight of Cit- ing facts, preparing arguments and memorials and subrus, Knowkes, MacWilliams, Malone, Melton, Millinor, mitting them orally or in writing to a committee or member of the Legislature of this State, and other services of